

School bus company eliminating 142 jobs

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An Illinois-based transportation service is shuttering its Rochester location and will lay off more than 140 employees.

Durham School Services will close its Newbury Street site this summer, according to a filing with the state Department of Labor.

The move will eliminate 142 jobs, many being part-time drivers and bus monitors, said Molly Hart, a spokesperson with the company.

"Really our goal is to keep as many within our organization as possible," she added. "A few of them are going to be transferring to different locations. We also understand that many of them are going to stay with the school district with the new vendor."

The transportation company provides busing services for the Rochester School District to students with disabilities.

It declined to participate when the school district put the work out to bid last October, said Chip Partner, a school district spokesperson.

"The district can assure families that there will be no interruption in service for students who previously received transportation from Durham School Services ... another qualified provider is in place to serve our families for the next school year," he said.

A call with the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union, the group representing the workers, was not returned. The layoffs and plant closing are scheduled to take effect by July 23, according to the filing with the state.

TCLAUSEN@DemocratandChronicle.com